



Cobb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Public Meeting Round #2

Southwest Planning Area

Meeting Date: August 24, 2006
Meeting Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Ford Center
4181 Atlanta Street
Powder Springs, GA 30127
Attendance: 34

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks..... Laraine Vance
Overview of Study Rod Wilburn
Highlights from Outreach Activities..... Ted Williams
Status of Random Opinion Survey Ted Williams
Draft, Vision, Goals and Strategies Harry McGinnis
Update on Technical Analysis Rod Wilburn
Public Comments – Questions and Answers
Closing

Meeting Summary

Participants were asked to sign in upon arrival and were provided with project materials including a fact sheet, glossary of transportation & land use planning terms, public meeting schedule, comment sheet, Local Transportation Information Bulletins for the City of Austell and Powder Springs, public meeting evaluation form and a meeting agenda. Area maps were on display for participants to review.

Laraine Vance opened the meeting. She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Members of the Project Management Team and the Stakeholder Coordinating Committee were introduced before turning the meeting over to Rod Wilburn of the project consulting team of Carter and Burgess.

Rod Wilburn gave a Power Point Presentation summarized as follows:

- Study Overview – what is the CTP?
- CTP versus SPLOST
- Study Schedule
- Where we are...

The presentation is a part of the record copy of these notes.

Rod Wilburn then turned the meeting over to Ted Williams who continued with the Power Point Presentation as follows:

- Pubic Outreach Update
 - Outreach Activities



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➤ Major Themes of Public Dialogue

- Random Public Opinion Survey Update

Ted Williams then turned the meeting over to Harry McGinnis who continued with the Power Point on the following:

- Draft Countywide Vision
- Draft CTP Goals

Harry McGinnis then turned the meeting over to Rod Wilburn who continued the Power Point presentation with the Definition of Technical Acronyms.

The participants were invited to ask questions/comments during the presentation. Following is a record of the questions and responses.

Question: How is the project funded?

Answer: Projects will be funded using a variety of sources, including through a combination of federal monies that flow through ARC.

Question: How many counties are in the study?

Answer: The study includes Cobb County and 6 cities. There are 19 counties in the ARC region.

Question: Is this a land use study?

Answer: No, this is not a land use plan. This study deals with mobility needs of the study area with land use being an integral part. Separately, the cities and the county are preparing comprehensive plans. We are coordinating with them.

Question: Is the study for the future?

Answer: Planning horizon is 2030, starting with exist conditions.

Question: What is the relationship of this study to other planning work?

Answer: All of the studies are interrelated and each study learns from the other. Information is shared between the studies for better coordination.

Question: What is the contributing cost for the study?

Answer: Eighty/twenty percent federal/local funding ratio. Each city will pay a share of the 20% percent based on its population.

Question: Does this study mean that the county or the cities will be required to implement all recommendations of the plan?

Answer: No. But it is expected that once the recommendations are approved each jurisdiction will use them as a basis for transportation decision-making in the future.

Question: The new development on Stoney Road will have approximately 50 new homes. Traffic is horrific already. What will happen to that road section?

Answer: Hopefully, that development has been identified in the Comprehensive Plan and will be incorporated in our study, including its impact on the transportation network.

Question: What can be done to increase traffic flow around Kennesaw Mountain?

Answer: We are looking at West Cobb/E Paulding area to get a handle on traffic patterns and to identify alternative corridors for traffic. The SR 6 Study will also look at improvements.



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Question: Will the study take into account shopping malls that are now vacant to create additional park-ride spaces?

Answer: We are looking at the redevelopment of "Big Box Retail" to provide park-ride spaces.

Question: What is the level of input from cities and county?

Answer: A lot, I am certain that staff will communicate concerns voiced by citizens to elected officials.

Question: Will this project be looking at posted speed limits There seem to be many speed traps in this County – particularly along the East-West Connector.

Answer: Yes, appropriate speeds will be looked at as part of this effort.

Question: Is public safety being considered in the evaluation of the roadway network?

Answer: Yes, public safety needs will be incorporated in the development of the performance measures for the study.

Question: Are funding capabilities being considered?

Answer: Needed improvements will be identified and prioritized for funding based on their level of need and overall benefit to the transportation network.

Question: How are you coordinating this effort with the rest of the region? The Levels of Service shown in the presentation seem low.

Answer: Yes, the model being developed for the project is a subset of the ARC model for the entire region. The LOS being shown is on a 24-hour basis. Many of the roadways will have lower peak hour LOS, which will be taken into account.

Question: How are you addressing land use in 30 years? Isn't that difficult to predict?

Answer: The land uses being considered for this study are based on the future land use plans adopted in the Comprehensive Plans by the cities and the County.

Question: Is consideration given to the changes in how the retail industry will adapt to shopping closer to home. What are projected land uses?

Answer: Market-driven shifts. We will rely on Comprehensive Plans from jurisdictions to manage growth. Jurisdictions reflect increase in mixed-use growth with reduction in trip distance. Preserve character of neighborhoods is considered. One kind of development will not last forever.

Question: Water – Is it being reviewed seriously?

Answer: Yes, but not in our plan.

The audience was asked to react to the following questions:

Question: What needs or issues have we missed or left out?

- Is there space for constructions tools on buses? (Response - Most transit systems do have space.)
- Don't understand the empty Express Buses. What is the benefit? (Response - Deadhead trips are needed to get the bus to the origination point. Public transit is viewed as public service.)



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Question: How did you hear about this meeting? How can we continue to improve our outreach activities?

- Newspaper
- Signs
- Website
- Cobb Line/utility bill

As the meeting was concluded, participants were encouraged to visit the project website, phone, email, and mail comments on the study.

Written Comments

1. Lighting along road ways needs to be increased.
2. I see the improvement of the traffic light on Brownsville and Hill Road in Powder Springs.
3. Will there be any sidewalks and public transportation considered for this area?
4. What about a rail through the area to connect to other cities. It seems since we live on the border our area is forgotten.
5. This meeting was very informative.
6. I drive from Moon Road in extreme West Cobb to Alpharetta as part of a daily commute (1 hour each way). There is no "good" route from Powder Springs across I-75 to Roswell. I use Hwy 120 for most of the route in East Cobb, but West Cobb has no simple route to I-75. Is there a plan to provide limited access highway lanes to enable traffic flow along the 120 corridor? Note that I work flex hours from 7 am to 4 pm (leaving home at 6 am). Most businesses hiring in my industry (software development) are located along the GA 400 corridor. I don't want to move, so I hope the plan addresses my situation over the long term.

How did you learn about this meeting?

- E-mail notice